The Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A schema generator, comprising:

a computer readable storage medium;

computer software stored on the computer readable storage medium and operable to:

parse a plurality of transaction definitions for a software system, wherein each transaction definition comprises one or more parameters; and

generate a plurality of schema definitions in response to the plurality of transaction definitions, wherein the schema definitions are written in a self-describing language;

wherein a first schema definition is operable to map the one or more parameters associated with a first transaction definition to a first document written in the self-describing language; and

wherein a second schema definition is operable to map a second document written in the self-describing language to the one or more parameters associated with a second transaction definition.

- 2. (Previously presented) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.
- 3. (Previously presented) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the self-describing language comprises HyperText Markup Language (HTML) or any version thereof.
- 4. (Original) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the self-describing language comprises a language that employs hypertext.
- 5. (Previously presented) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the software system comprises an Information Management System (IMS).
- 6. (Original) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the transaction definitions are associated with a message format service.

- 7. (Previously presented) The schema generator of Claim 6, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.
- 8. (Previously presented) A method for generating a plurality of schema definitions, comprising:

parsing a plurality of transaction definitions for a software system, wherein each transaction definition comprises one or more parameters; and

generating a plurality of schema definitions in response to the plurality of transaction definitions, wherein the schema definitions are written in a self-describing language;

wherein a first schema definition is operable to map the one or more parameters associated with a first transaction definition to a first document written in the self-describing language; and

wherein a second schema definition is operable to map a second document written in the self-describing language to the one or more parameters associated with a second transaction definition.

- 9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.
- 10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the self-describing language comprises HyperText Markup Language (HTML) or any version thereof.
- 11. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the transaction definitions are associated with a message format service.

4

- 12. (Original) A transaction processing system comprising:
- a software service operable to receive a transaction request and to generate a first object associated with the transaction request;

an object generator operable to convert the first object into a first document written in a self-describing language; and

- a document generator operable to convert the first document into a first transaction message according to a schema associated with a first transaction type determinable from the first document.
- 13. (Previously presented) The transaction processing system of Claim 12, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.
- 14. (Previously presented) The transaction processing system of Claim 12, wherein the self-describing language comprises HyperText Markup Language (HTML) or any version thereof.
- 15. (Original) The transaction processing system of Claim 12, wherein the transaction generator is further operable to send the first transaction message to a message format service.
- 16. (Original) The transaction processing system of Claim 12, wherein the document generator is further operable to receive a second transaction message and convert the second transaction message into a second document according to a schema associated with a second transaction type determinable from the second transaction message; and

wherein the second document is written in the self-describing language.

17. (Original) The transaction processing system of Claim 16, wherein the object generator is further operable to convert the second document into a second object.

5

- 18. (Original) The transaction processing system of Claim 17, wherein the software service is further operable to receive the second object in response to the transaction request.
- 19. (Previously presented) The transaction processing system of Claim 18, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML).
- 20. (Original) The transaction processing system of Claim 16, wherein the software service is further operable to receive the second document in response to the transaction request.
- 21. (Original) The transaction processing system of Claim 12, wherein the software service comprises a web service and wherein the definition of the first object has been published in a registry.
- 22. (Original) A method for processing a transaction, comprising:
 receiving a transaction request;
 generating a first object associated with the transaction request;
 converting the first object into a first document written in a self-describing language;
 and

converting the first document into a first transaction message according to a schema associated with a first transaction type determinable from the first document.

- 23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.
- 24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the self-describing language comprises HyperText Markup Language (HTML) or any version thereof.
 - 25. (Original) The method of Claim 22, further comprising: sending the first transaction message to a message format service.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 22, further comprising: receiving a second transaction message;

converting the second transaction message into a second document according to a schema associated with a second transaction type determinable from the second transaction message; and

wherein the second document is written in the self-describing language.

- 27. (Original) The method of Claim 26, further comprising: converting the second document into a second object.
- 28. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising: receiving the second object in response to the transaction request.
- 29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, further comprising: wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML).
- 30. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein the first object is generated by a web service and wherein the definition of the first object has been published in a registry.